Charge for use of underground water

854. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the rates being charged from Andhra Pradesh *vis-a-vis* other States for the use of under ground water for agricultural purposes;

(b) the reasons for variance in rates prescribed for various States and the norms for fixing these rates;

(c) the main recommendations of the expert committee set up by Government to rationalize these rates; and

(d) the details of action taken on these recommendation by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The rates for use of ground water for agricultural purposes are decided by the State Governments. As per report received from Andhra Pradesh Government, the use of ground water for agriculture purposes is not being charged.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Water Resources has not constituted any expert committee for examining rationalization of rates for the use of ground water for agriculture purposes.

Declaration of rivers as national assets

855. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether to increase irrigation potential and harness the hydro-power possibilities, the Central Government had decided to adopt some rivers as "National Assets';

(b) if so, the details of rivers in the country which have been adopted by the Central Government so far;

(c) whether Government is aware that water dispute amongst some States have created imbalance in increasing irrigation potential; and

(d) if so, the strategies Government propose to formulate to have a proper control of various rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In order to increase irrigated area in the country and to harness hydropower potential, the Central Government has declared 14 water resources projects as 'National Projects'.

(b) The details of the projects declared as National Projects with river/river basin in which these projects are located is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Most of the major rivers in India are inter-State in character having catchments/watersheds in two or more States. The water disputes arise amongst the basin States